



*The design of this worship:  
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California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
Wednesday Morning Opening Praise 10am, June 16, 2010

## “radiate joy”

### Gathering Song

*“I’m Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing”*

### Invitation

*“Welcome”*

*Songbook: For Everyone Born (“FEB”), 7*

*[Marcia sings first verse with spoken introductory remarks between lines...]*

Let’s walk together for a while...  
and ask where we begin...  
... to build a world where love can grow and hope can enter in...  
... to be the hands of healing and to plant the seeds of peace...

Singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You’re invited to come and know God’s grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
‘cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.

*[music continues to vamp... invitation to people to greet one another  
... song continues with all singing]*

**Let’s talk together of a time when we will share a feast,  
Where pride and power kneel to serve the lonely and the least,  
And joy will set the table as we join our hands to pray,  
Singing welcome, welcome to this place.  
You’re invited to come and know God’s grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
‘cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.**

**Let’s dream together of the day when earth and heaven are one,  
A city built of love and light, the new Jerusalem,  
Where our mourning turns to dancing, ev’ry creature lifts its voice!**

**Crying welcome, welcome to this place.  
You're invited to come and know God's grace.  
All are welcome the love of God to share  
'cause all of us are welcome here; all are welcome in this place.**

**Welcome**  
Bishop Brown  
*[ending with prayer...]*

**Prayer Song**  
"Lord Jesus Christ"  
*Songbook: Upper Room Worshipbook ("URW"), 386*

*[another language first]*  
**Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my [fear conquer] me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let my heart always welcome your love.**

*[the song weaves through the Psalm]*

**An Ancient Word**  
Psalm 37: 3-7

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and God will give you the desires of your heart.

*[gradual crescendo]* **Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my [fear conquer] me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let [our hearts] always welcome your love.**

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in God and God will do this:

God will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently...

*[gradual decrescendo]* **Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my [fear conquer] me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let [our hearts] always welcome your love...**

*[silence]*

*[musical underscoring sneaks back in...]* The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; God is their stronghold in time of trouble. The LORD helps them and delivers them; God delivers them and saves them, because they take refuge in the Holy One.

*[gradual crescendo]*  
**Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let not my doubts nor my [fear conquer] me.  
Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us.  
Let [our hearts] always welcome your love.**

### **A Contemporary Word**

*By Cynthia Winton-Henry, adapted*

- 1: Here is an idea!  
Let us make something out of nothing
- 2: No, not nothing...  
Let us gather up everything that we ever were
- 3: or are
- 4: or will be
- 5: Let us be shapers  
creators
- 6: makers of some thing,  
some world,  
some living.
- 7: Let us dare to succeed at it  
Let us dare to fail at it,
- 8: Dare to fly on the wings of this moment,
- 9: Let us improvise our dreams.
- 10: Let us leap boldly from the shoulders of our lives,  
our histories  
our loves,  
and our desires.
- 1: Here is an idea.  
Let us play ourselves out!
- All: (The real work)
- 2: Let us run the risk of unapologetic individuality.
- 3: AND let us go out wildly,
- 4: Not just as one,
- All: But as a union, an ensemble.  
*[music vamp begins under...]*
- 5: Let us breathe
- 6: Let us sing
- 7: Let us laugh
- 8: Let us dance.
- 9: Let us see what will be...
- 10: ...when we dare to radiate our joy  
initiate relationship beyond our comfortable boundaries  
and co-create the Reign of God!

**Song of Joy**  
“And Are We Yet Alive” UMH 553

*This is done in a jazzy, syncopated rhythm, we sing verses 1 & 2 of song,  
then verse 3 goes back to familiar “straight” rhythm, and verse 4 a capella four part harmony,  
then 5 & 6 upbeat syncopated once again]*



California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
Wednesday 8pm, June 16, 2010  
Service of Word and Table, Ritual for Retirees

## “from the source”

### **Prelude**

*Start 7:45 [Handbells] then Jazz music as people enter.  
[learn “Cup of Freedom”]*

### **WE GATHER**

#### **Preparation for Worship**

Mass “Pick-up” All-Generational Choir (6:30pm rehearsal for this)

#### *“Gathered As One”*

*[Put together pictures to go with verses for media. At the last refrain, all persons are invited to stand and face the center of the arena where the Christ candle has entered and is being held aloft at a center communion table. All sing the refrain.]*

*[pics of a diversity of people, smiling, radiating joy...]*

Many faces, the young and the old,  
gathered as one in our God!  
Throughout history the story’s retold,  
gathered as one in our God!  
Like those come before us,  
We listen and learn.  
We remember the promise and await your return.  
So without hesitation a new generation  
Proclaims the salvation of God!

#### *Refrain:*

Gathered as one in Jesus your Son,  
Lifting our voices in praise,  
We know and believe and long to receive  
The bread that is strength for our days,  
Gathered as one!

*[pics of diverse conference churches at communion]*

Many pilgrims, sharing the feast,  
gathered as one in our God!  
All are welcome the greatest and least,  
gathered as one in our God!  
Like those come before us,  
We listen and learn.  
We remember the promise and await your return.  
So without hesitation a new generation  
Proclaims the salvation of God!

*[Refrain]*

Gathered as one in Jesus your Son,  
Lifting our voices in praise,  
We know and believe and long to receive  
The bread that is strength for our days,  
Gathered as one!

*[live camera on choir]*

Many voices, raised up in song,  
gathered as one in our God!  
In one family where all can belong,  
gathered as one in our God!  
Like those come before us,  
We listen and learn.  
We remember the promise and await your return.  
So without hesitation a new generation  
Proclaims the salvation of God!

*[Congregation stands and joins refrain, the Christ light enters and comes to the center table]*

**Gathered as one in Jesus your Son,  
lifting our voices in praise,  
we know and believe and long to receive  
the bread that is strength for our days,  
gathered as one!**

*[repeat]*

### **Affirmation**

from *Worshipping Ecumenically*, edited by Per Harling (Geneva: WCC Publications, 1995), 153.

Leader: How great is your faithfulness, O God.  
**People: We proclaim a new hope!**  
Lift us up on the wings of your Spirit,  
through pathways that lead to your reign.  
Move us beyond the edge of our dreams.  
**How great is your faithfulness, O God.**  
**We proclaim a new hope!**

Sweep us forward like an ocean of truth,  
breaking free of the power of self-interest  
until the whole earth sings with your justice.

**How great is your faithfulness, O God.**

**We proclaim a new hope!**

Burn us clean with the fire of your love  
that we may rise up as the children of God,  
walking bravely towards the cross of our day.

**How great is your faithfulness, O God.**

**We proclaim a new hope!**

Breathe in us the breath of your Spirit,  
that your risen life may be seen in our witness  
as we join hands with all who seek hope.

**How great is your faithfulness, O God.**

**We proclaim a new hope!**

### **Opening Hymn**

“Sing for God’s Glory” URW 62  
*[the Christ light continues to the stage]*

**Sing for God’s glory that colors the dawn of creation,  
racing across the sky, trailing bright clouds of elation;  
sun of delight succeeds the velvet of night,  
warming the earth’s exultation.**

**Sing for God’s power that shatters the chains that would bind us,  
searing the bleakness of fear and despair that would hold us,  
touching our shame with love that will not lay blame,  
reaching out gently to find us.**

**Sing for God’s justice disturbing each easy illusion,  
tearing down tyrants and putting our pride to confusion;  
life-blood of right resisting evil and slight,  
offering freedom’s transfusion.**

**Sing for God’s saints who have traveled faith’s journey before us,  
who in our weariness give us their hope to restore us;  
in them we see the new creation to be,  
spirit of love made flesh for us.**

### **Invocation**

*extemporaneous in a language other than English*

**WE PROCLAIM**

## **A Contemporary Word**

*“The Day is Near”*

[http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/index.php?ct=store.details&pid=V00523&hittail\\_ok=1&fyi=secure\\_ssl\\_not\\_required](http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/index.php?ct=store.details&pid=V00523&hittail_ok=1&fyi=secure_ssl_not_required)

*[cut visual just after “salvation is nearer than you thought” into a slide “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost....” And music begins under to song...]*

*“You Are Mine”*

*Songbook: The Faith We Sing (“FWS”), 2218*

*[weave Luke reading into song]*

## **An Ancient Word**

Luke 15: 1-7

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: “Which one of you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

## **The Word Proclaimed**

Bishop Schnase

*“Nibbling Our Way Lost”*

## **WE RESPOND**

*[possible repeat of refrain “You Are Mine” at end of sermon]*

## **Prayers of the People**

*“Give Us Light”*

*handbells and ensemble*

1. Give us light, give us light, give us light, O Lord
2. Give us life...
3. Grant us peace...
4. Save us now...
5. Give us grace...

## **Offering**

*Fijian choir*

## **Doxology**

*Bells begin to ring around the space [C’s & G’s randomly]*



*Marcia invites all to stand and face the center table in the space. She sings refrain once and invites all to sing then begins the round...*

**Come into God's presence  
singing alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*African drumbeat begins at end of round and "Alleluia's" begin as "offerings" (communion elements, plants, food, etc) are brought to the table*

*When the elements are on the table, all Presiding Voices (Bishop plus elders whose first languages are: Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Pacific Islander(s), Spanish, Native American, African) begin to say repeatedly in their first language, "Come, gather!"*

### **Invitation to the Meal**

Bishop: From all corners of this creation, we have been touched by God's radiant love.  
In the ever-expanding pulse of divine call, we are bound together.  
Of all possible places to be, we find ourselves here... gathered, encircled.  
In the face of such graceful abundance,  
let us be honest with each other and with God.

### **Confession**

You asked us to radiate love to neighbors,  
to radiate joy to a despairing world,  
to radiate peace in the midst of violence,  
and at times our own self-serving concern threatens to overshadow all else.  
We wander off on paths of destruction  
losing touch with the whole,  
out of earshot of the One who calls us toward hope.  
In this silence we offer our deepest regrets  
and begin to listen for the voice of the Shepherd once again.

### **Silence**

#### **Assurance**

*[drums begin soft beat and crescendo]*

Once we were lost, now we are found. Let the people say, "Alleluia!"

**Alleluia!**

Where we thought there was scarcity, the banquet has been laid. Let the people say, "Alleluia!"

**Alleluia!**

Such grace is unending, there is enough for all. Let the people say, "Alleluia!"

**Alleluia!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia!**

Amen!

**Amen!**

[sung]

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.  
I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

**Presiding Voices:** *[each in own language]* The Lord be with you!

**Bishop:** Friends, in every place that we are, in every language we can conceive, God is ever present with you!

**Marcia:** And the people say, "And also with you!"

**People:** "And also with you!"

**Bishop:** Turn to the people around you and tell them this news: "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

**People:** "The peace of Christ is always with you!"

**Marcia:** Listen! *(pause)* The body breathes in together... and out. As close as breath, the first language of all people, the Lord is present with us. *(pause)* So we lift up our hearts. And the family says, "We lift them up to God."

**People:** "We lift them up to God!"

**Bishop:** Let us give thanks to the Holy Living One because it is the right thing to do, not only now, but always, for "always" is when God is with us.

**Marcia:** I invite you to open both palms upward in the sign language for "give."

**Bishop:** *(as the motion is done)* ... We thank you, Creator God, that you formed us, giving us your likeness.

**Marcia:** Now place your hands together in the sign meaning "to be with."

**Bishop:** *(as the motion is done)*... We thank you, Sustainer God, that you are here with us.

**Marcia:** Bring your hands close to your face, in the sign for "prayer." Feel the breath upon your hands.

**Bishop:** *(as the motion is done)*... We thank you God for breathing into us the breath of life. Even when we have turned away, you have remained with us, close as breath. When we have been frightened, hesitant to approach, still you are patient. You have time and again reached out your hand to free us, for your promise is steadfast.

**Marcia:**

And so, we open our eyes, our hands and our hearts to your will for us as told to us through your prophets. We hear the saints of every time and place praising you!

**Voices:** *[each in own language]* Holy, holy, holy Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

**Marcia:** And we join our voices together praising you along with all who do, have ever done so and ever will do so, repeating:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord! (the people repeat)**

**Everywhere we see your Glory! (repeat)**

**Hosanna in the highest! (repeat)**

**... and the widest... (repeat)**

**... and the deepest... (repeat)**  
**... core of our being. (repeat, pause)**

**Bishop:**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is your Son who came to preach the good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

Listen people! (*pause... music comes in underscoring slowly*)

The Lord is with you.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry...

and sat down at the table and ate with those others considered “unworthy”... even those who are “nibbling their way to lost.” [*this is reference to the sermon, adapt for other contexts*]

Let us remind ourselves by saying "Not just 99, but all 100!"

**People: "Not just 99, but all 100!"**

**Bishop:** On the night he gave himself up for us, he was at the table with his friends. He invited them... and he invites us, to remember him whenever we break bread and share a cup.

*[sung]*

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**  
**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

*Sung by ensemble as the bread is lifted*

This is the bread given of the earth,  
Receive of the fields, it will set you free!  
This bread of life, I will take up  
and I will call on the name of God!

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**  
**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

*Sung by ensemble as the cups are lifted*

This is the cup given of the earth,  
Receive of the vine, it will set you free!  
This cup of freedom, I will take up  
and I will call on the name of God!

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**  
**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

**Marcia:**

Let us be a community of messengers, proclaiming and reminding each other and creation that: **"Christ has died (repeat), Christ is risen (repeat), Christ will come again (repeat)."** I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer.

**Bishop and Presiding Voices:** *[each in first language]* Pour out your Holy Spirit!

**Bishop:** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Let them be for us the body and blood of Christ so that may be for the world the body of Christ, radiating his love, initiating relationship in his name, and co-creating the reign of God.

**Marcia:**

I invite you to make a point of connection with those around you by laying a hand on a shoulder, holding hands, whatever is most comfortable for you.

**Bishop and Presiding Voices:** *[each in first language]* By your spirit we are one!

**Bishop:** By your spirit we are one. Let this love be seen in us outside of this place. It is with great thanks that all God's people say, **"Amen!"**

*[sung]*

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

**I will take the cup of freedom and call on the name of God.**

**Bishop:** And now, with confidence as children of God, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, each in their first language, saying: *[each in first language]*

**Breaking of the Bread**

*[instructions for going to stations]*

**Communion**

**Prayer Song at end of Communion**

"Fill My Cup, Lord"

*[jazz style]*

*The retirees and spouses come to stand in front of the stage during the song.  
The Bishop faces them.*

**Celebration of Retirees**

**Bishop:** Before you stand good and faithful servants of God who are ready to transition into new avenues of ministry.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you were called and sent forth to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. (Lk 4:18-19)

**All: We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your radiant love, faithful witness and service.**

Bishop: There were times that the road was rough and the way unclear, but God's goodness and guidance has seen you through.

**All: We give thanks to God for the lives that have been changed through your radiant love, faithful witness and service.**

Bishop: Never think lightly of the great good that God has wrought through you. Continue to be true to your calling. May God's love and power be with you always. Let us pray together.

**All: God of grace, you fill your servants with vision. You empower your servants with your Spirit. We give thanks for the ministry of these women and men, and for the ways in which you have ministered to us through them as they built connections and built your Reign. Give them a sense of your abiding presence that they may continue to love and serve you, and ever grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **Presentation of Retiring Servants**

*[list of names and statements read by two people from Board of Ordained Ministry]*

*Each retiree's name is called and a short 2-3 sentence statement is read (written by them, edited if necessary), they are given a candle. A short excerpt from their favorite hymn/song is played in the background as the statement is read*

*Marcia invites all the retirees and their spouses to follow the Christ light to the center and to surround the center table and all the congregation to turn and face them, "surrounding" them.*

*Bishop Brown also comes to the center table to do the following:*

### **The Charge**

Bishop: For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven. So, too, there is a time for movement, new adventure, fields of service not yet touched. With love, we send you forth in the spirit of John Wesley: May the world be your parish.

**All: Go into the world and respond to the love of Christ in all you do. Live out the vision God has given you. May God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you. May you be channels for God's mercy, grace, and peace to the world wherever you may be.**

Bishop: *[The whole congregation is invited to extend a hand toward them (people close to them can lay hands on them... the Bishop prays a blessing in his own words)].*

### **Song of Blessing**

"May You Run and Not Be Weary" FWS 2281

*[the people are invited to sing this to the retirees]*

**May you run and not be weary.  
May your heart be filled with song.  
And may the love of God continue  
to give you hope and keep you strong.  
And may you run and not be weary.  
May your life be filled with joy!  
And may the road you travel always lead you home.**

**Radiant Light: From Generation to Generation**

*A representative from the class of ordinands comes to the center.*

Bishop:

Over and over in scripture, we see one generation of leaders authorize another generation, conveying the responsibility for leading God's people to those who come after them. Moses mentored Joshua, Elijah passed the mantle to Elisha, Paul encouraged Timothy and others to be faithful to the tasks they were given, and to be good stewards of the authority that was entrusted to them.

*[The representative member of the retiring class lights their candle from the Christ Candle.  
They then light the candle of the representative ordinand and speak the following]*

*A representative of the retiring class:*

We have carried the light of Christ, letting it radiate in our ministries and in our lives.

Now we share the light with you,  
indicating that the responsibilities and dedication of our generation  
will now be carried on by yours.  
Tend the light that is given you.  
We pray that the light of Christ will radiate through you  
and your ministries.

*A representative of the new class replies: (all ordinands present)*

We who come after you receive this light with gratitude.  
May your faithfulness encourage us patiently to rekindle the gift  
that is given us through the laying on of hands,  
that we may shine with a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. (2 Tim. 1)

Bishop: And so the gifts of one generation are handed down to the next. These faithful retiring servants have served in the light of God and continue this journey in new ways. Let us give thanks to God with our applause and our alleluia's for the witness of these retirees!

*Applause and they return to their seats,  
Bishop and Christ candle returns to the stage, as we sing.*

**Closing Song**

“All My Days”

*Songbook: Zion Still Sings (“ZSS”), 2*

**You know my words, before they’re said.**

**You know my need and I am fed.**

**You give me life. You know my ways,  
my strength, my path, for all my days,  
my strength, my path, for all my days.**

**If I should fly beyond the dawn,  
the [nighttime] will not overcome.**

**If I lie down in deepest night,  
still you are there, my Lord, my light,  
still you are there, my Lord, my light.**

**Our every thought, each word we say,  
the whole of time, the present day,  
are held within your mighty hand,  
too wonderful to comprehend,  
too wonderful to comprehend.**

**O mend my heart and free my voice.**

**From sin released, I will rejoice.**

**O search me, Lord, my spirit cries,  
and let my song of praise arise,  
and let my song of praise arise!**

**Sending forth by deacon**

**Benediction**

*Bishop Brown*

And now go forth into the night in peace.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

Amen.

*Reprise of closing song music as people go out.*



California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
Thursday 4pm, June 17, 2010  
Celebration of Life and Reaffirmation of Baptism

## “the waters of our birth”

### **Opening to God’s Possibilities**

*Video of water, streams, time-lapse of flowers opening as ensemble,  
then congregation, sings canon: “Water of Life” URW 422*

**Water of life,  
Jesus our light,  
journey from death to new life.**

**Merciful God,  
gather us in;  
center us now in your grace.**

**Fountain of love,  
source of all gifts;  
Make us your people of peace.**

**Silent Prayer**

## LIGHT

Projected words on fabric:

*the light of Christ rises in glory,  
overcoming the dark of death*



## **Prayer**

O Holy One of Life.  
In you we have breath, and the totality of our being.  
We thank you for life  
    spilling over the hills of our grief  
    and for your Eternal Life  
    filling the wells in our soul and our senses.  
We invite you this day  
    to come in the midst of remembrances  
    of death, doubt and disappointment.  
Lift us, O Lord, into light  
    that embraces the whole of us.  
Draw us together to celebrate the love and laughter  
    of lives lived in your glory.  
Connect us, O Holy One of Life,  
    so that those hearts that need to feel there is an end to sorrow  
    will experience your fullness of life once again.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Introduction to Act of Remembrance**

Bishop Brown

*Romans 6: 3-5*

Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him .

### **Song of Preparation**

“As I Went Down to the River to Pray”

*[from the soundtrack for “Brother Where Art Thou?” film]*

### **Remembering the Saints**

*[names are called, short biography, picture on screen, a bell is chimed after each name, a pitcher of water is poured into a font on stage]*

### **Song of Prayer**

“Give Me Jesus” ZSS, 84

*[the Bishop greets the families of the memorialized]*

## WORD

Projected words on fabric:

*the record of God's saving deeds.  
with a word, creation*

*font light comes up  
Thunder and rainstorm sound effect*

### ***"This is the Water"***

*at the center font, spoken by Marcia & Sifa (alternating lines)  
by A. Robert Hirschfeld, adapted. Used with permission.*

This is the water on which God breathed and the Spirit brooded when God began creating us..  
All creeping things, all races, male and female.

This is the water that drove up the trunk of the tree whose branches bore the fruit we weren't to  
taste.

This water covered the earth deeper than the Himalayas when God wanted to start over. This is  
the foot of the rainbow that's meant to tell us God won't destroy the creation again.

This is the water of the River Jabbok where Jacob still wrestles with God.

This is the well where Joseph was left for dead by his jealous brothers.

This is the water that opened at Moses' command when God led God's people out of slavery.  
This is the water by which Miriam and the women danced the rhythms of liberation.

This water sprung from rocks in the desert when the people started whining to go back to the  
way things used to be.

These are the salty tears King David shed when Nathan accused him of the worst sin. These are  
the tears he shed when he pleaded God for forgiveness, and got it.

These are the waters of Babylon by which our ancestors sat down and wept, their harps and  
tongues silent for homesickness.

And this is the water that broke in a barn in Bethlehem.

Out of this water John pulled a stunned Jesus in the River Jordan, the day they saw the dove and  
heard from deep within the Voice that said, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED. IN YOU MY HEART  
SINGS FOR JOY!"

This is where those men heaved and hauled nets, until love came to town and called them to even harder work for even less pay.

This is the water that became wine at a wedding in Cana.

Peter sauntered on this water, and then sank, and then was rescued, setting the pattern of a disciple's life.

This is the well in Samaria where Jesus chatted, unchaperoned, with a so-called disreputable woman. This is the living water that quenched her thirst forever, and restored her dignity.

This is the spittle that came from his mouth when he restored hearing to those who could not hear, when he restored sight to those who could not see.

This is the water he used to cut the wine at his last meal.

These are the tears that fell that last night in the garden.

This is the sink that Pilate used to wash his hands when he passed the death sentence.

These are the wet faces of the women whose grief at the cross could not be quenched.

This is what Jesus thirsted for at the hour of his death.

This is the tomb from which Christ blasted... This is the opening, this is the way.

This is the water that binds us to him when shame and sin and death are destroyed... This is the water that reminds us who we are, and whose we are.

## WATER

### **Song of Entrance to the Waters**

“Wade in the Water” / “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” FWS 2107/UMH 521  
*[this is a compilation that gets layered from low voices to high]*

*Low voices sing repeatedly:*

**Wade in the water, wade in the water...**

*Middle voices sing repeatedly:*

**Wade in the water, wade in the water, children,  
Wade in the water, God's a gonna trouble the water.**

*High voices sing repeatedly:*

**I want Jesus to walk with me,  
I want Jesus to walk with me.  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

*Marcia does verbal transition re: early church Easter Eve baptisms... the moment of the resurrection of Jesus, our moments of death turned to life... the waters of our "re-birth"*

### **Reaffirmation of Baptism**

*written by Taylor Burton-Edwards,*

*[<http://www.gbod.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=nhLRJ2PMKsG&b=5511651&ct=7189477>]*

#### INTRODUCTION

*Bishop:*

Sisters and brothers in Christ:

through the Sacrament of Baptism

God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,

water poured over and immersing us,

water that flows freely for all who will receive it,

water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,

water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,

water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,

to renew our commitments in each other's presence

to Christ who has raised us,

the Spirit who has birthed us,

and the Creator who is making all things new.

*"Wade in the Water" reprise*

#### RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

I invite you to face west, the direction of the setting sun...

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,  
reject the evil powers of this world,  
and repent of our sin!**

I invite you to face east, the direction of the rising sun...

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**We accept the freedom and power God gives us  
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression  
in whatever forms they present themselves!**

I invite you to face the Christ light and Gospel Book residing in our midst in the center of this space...

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body?

**We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior,  
put our whole trust in his grace,  
and promise to serve him as our Lord,  
in union with the church which Christ has opened  
to people of all ages, nations, and races!**

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church  
and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church  
as we put our trust  
in God, the Father Almighty.  
in Jesus Christ, his only Son.  
and in the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and forever.**

“Wade in the Water” *reprise*

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

*Two persons share this reading. The congregational responses in bold are signed (American Sign Language) silently by the congregation, following someone who is modeling it.*

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us  
by baptism into Jesus Christ  
will never die.

Your justice never fails.

Your mercy is everlasting.

**Your healing river flows.**

**Your Spirit blows where you will.**

**We cannot stop you, God!**

But sometimes we try.

We try to block the flow,  
we redirect the winds of the Spirit,  
or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream  
that we do not perceive it,  
and we forget its power.  
We parch ourselves.

**We are dry and thirsty, O God.  
Come, refresh us!**

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!  
**Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters.  
**Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.  
**Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**  
Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.  
**Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.**

Most Holy God, [Abba, Amma!]  
**Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!  
**Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!  
**Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!  
**All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

### **Encounter with Water**

*[a sprinkling of water with tree boughs by youth of the conference]*

“Rain Down” *URW 144*

#### *Refrain*

**Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.  
Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God of life.**

Faithful and true is the word of our God.  
All of God’s works are so worthy of trust.  
God’s mercy falls on the just and the right;  
Full of God’s love is the earth.

*Refrain*

We who revere and find hope in our God  
Live in the kindness and joy of God's wing.  
God will protect us from [death and despair];  
God will not leave us to starve.

*Refrain*

God of creation, we long for your truth;  
You are the water of life that we thirst.  
Grant that your love and your peace touch our hearts,  
All of our hope lies in you.

*Refrain*

**WE CONTINUE OUR WORSHIPFUL WORK**

**Benediction**



California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
Friday Morning Worship 8:15am, June 18, 2010

## “initiate relationship”

### Gathering Music

Dance Medley

“I Will Dance as [Miriam] Danced” (originally “David”)  
“The Lord of the Dance”

*(UMH)*

“We are [Dancing] in the Light of God” (originally “Marching”)  
*(The Faith We Sing)*

### Scripture

The LORD appeared to us, saying:

“See, I will bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the ends of the earth...  
They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back.  
I will lead them beside streams of water  
on a level path where they will not stumble.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
I have drawn you with loving-kindness.  
I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Israel.  
Again you will take up your tambourines  
and go out to dance with the joyful.”

*From Jeremiah 31*

### A Visual Word

“Dancing” video

[www.wherethehellismatt.com](http://www.wherethehellismatt.com)



### Response

Marcia invites people to share gestures of greeting/passing peace - ancient kiss of peace ("The Jesus in Me" ("El Jesus in me") ZSS 132) - Asian bow - sign language for "peace," african song w/ handshake, other ways of passing the peace from congregations in the conference

### Petition

"Dangerous Prayers"

Deliver us, O God, O Truth, O Love, from quiet prayer  
from polite language,  
from appropriate gesture and form  
**and whatever else we think we must put forth to invoke or praise You.**

Let us instead pray dangerously—wantonly, lustily, passionately.  
Let us demand with every ounce of our strength,  
let us storm the gates of heaven, let us shake ourselves  
and our plaster saints from the sleep of years.

**Let us pray dangerously.**  
**Let us throw ourselves from the top of the tower,**  
**let us risk a descent to the dimmest regions of the abyss,**  
**let us put our head into the lion's mouth**  
**and direct our feet to the entrance of the dragon's cave.**

Let us pray dangerously.  
Let us not hold back a little portion,  
dealing out our lives—our precious minutes and our  
energies—like some efficient accountant.  
Let us rather pray dangerously—unsafe, profligate, wasteful!

Let us ask for nothing less than the Infinite ravage us.  
**Let us ask for nothing less than annihilation in the**  
**Fires of Love.**

Let us not pray in holy half-measures nor walk  
the middle path for too long, but pray madly, foolishly.  
Let us be too ecstatic,  
let us be too overwhelmed with sorrow and remorse,  
let us be undone...and gladly.

Left to our devices, ah what structures of deceit we have created;  
what battlements erected, what labyrinths woven,  
what traps set for ourselves, and then  
fallen into.  
**Enough.**

**Let us pray dangerously—fierce prayer,  
fiery prayer, improper prayer,  
exuberant prayer and completely unrealistic prayer.**

Let us say Yes, again and again and again.  
and Yes some more.  
**Let us pray dangerously, the most dangerous prayer is  
YES.**

*By Regina Sara Ryan, adapted by Marcia McFee.*

**Closing Song**

“Draw the Circle Wide”

by Mark Miller

[order at:

*ensemble and people*



California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
Saturday Morning Worship 8:15am, June 19, 2010

## “cocreate the reign”

“Njalo”

[from songbook: “Njalo” order at:

<http://www.abingdonpress.com/forms/search.aspx?ddlSearchScope=title&txtSearchQuery=njalo&txtContributorSearchQuery=>

**Njalo, njalo, njalo, njalo...**

**Always we pray**

**Always we give**

**Always we bless,**

**Always!**

“Restless Weaver” *URW 81*

*[IMAX film of stars zooming into earth then inside leaf, into DNA on verse 1 solo]*

Restless Weaver, ever spinning threads of justice and shalom;  
Dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home;  
Gathering up life’s varied fibers—every texture, every hue:  
Grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew.

*[the congregation joins]*

**Where earth’s fragile web is raveling, help us end each broken strand.  
Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land.  
Through the Spirit’s inspiration—off’ring health where once was pain—  
Strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.**

**When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn,  
From compassion’s sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn.  
Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare  
Live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.**

**Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life—now and yet to be—  
Binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry:**

**You have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do.  
With your reign of peace our pattern, we will weave your world anew.**

“In Praise of the Creator and Works in Progress”

*[based on “This is My Body: Creativity, Clay and Change” by Marjory Zoet Bankson]*

1: In the beginning God was creating all things,  
blowing spirit into fleshy forms,  
making animals, birds, and fish.  
Finally, God shaped a human form  
from the dust of the earth  
body and head, two legs, two arms,  
two hands for making things --  
but it had neither laughter nor tears,  
at first.

2: God blew the breath of being into the clay  
and set the being in a garden  
with all kinds of trees and flowers,  
birds and fish and animals.  
None were like the human one,  
and so  
it was  
alone.

3: Time passed.  
The clay dried and then a crack appeared  
And out of the crack, soft clay came.  
Then God fashioned two different beings  
from the heart like stone, one male and the other female.  
God breathed a living soul into each of us.

Adam got his name from the red river clay,  
which we call “adamah.”  
Eve got her name as “Mother of All the Living.”

*Response (sung by whole group)*

**Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

#1: So God created humankind in God’s image,

#2: As children, we instinctively know about creating...

#3: mudpies, imaginary friends, sand castles!

#1: in the image of God they were created;  
male and female God created them.

#2: We know it is our birthright, our nature, our likeness... To  
create

#3: and to change..

#1: God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the  
earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and  
over every living thing that moves upon the earth...”

#2: Perhaps as children we haven’t yet forgotten the creator’s hand, the divine  
breath, the blessing and the commission, “Be fruitful & multiply...”

#3: ...not just pro-creating, but re-creating... Loving creation deeply  
and enjoying our creativity

#1: to multiply hope,  
#2: love,  
#3: and peace...

#1: to heal the wounded,  
#2: feed the hungry  
#3: and release the prisoners.

- based on Marjory Zoet Bankson’s “*This is My Body: Creativity, Clay and Change*”

### **Prayers of the People** “Ubi Caritas” URW 394

*[the people share with each other in the midst of this song... prayers]*

### **The Lord’s Prayer** *From Nicaragua*

Adapted from *With All God’s People: The New Ecumenical Prayer Cycle*, 268.

**Our Creator, who is in our land,  
may your name be blessed  
in our incessant search for justice and peace.  
May your kingdom come  
for those who have for centuries awaited a life with dignity.  
May your will be done at this earthly banquet and in heaven  
and in this church - a church on the side of poor.  
Give us today our daily bread to build a new society.**

**Forgive us our trespasses,  
Do not let us fall into the temptation  
of believing ourselves already new men and women.  
And deliver us from evil and from the evil of forgetting  
that our lives are in your hands.  
Amen.**

**Song of Commitment**  
“Who Will Build the Church?” (“Kanisa Litajengua”)  
*(For Everyone Born)*



## California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship

### Setting the Appointments

*[this is done one district at a time at appointed moments on Friday and Saturday]*

#### Setting of the Appointments

*[start with first verse of “Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You” FWS]*

*[After the churches/charges/names for a district are read, clergy and lay persons from that district will be asked to stand (or raise a hand) as a group - a sign of their commitment to ministry together (this includes the DS and District Lay Leader on the stage). Persons near to those standing are invited to lay hands upon them or extend their hands toward them in an act of blessing. A short blessing will be prayed for the district.]*

Blessing for each district:  
*[prayed by Bishop]*

Come, Holy Spirit.

Living God, enrich these, your servants, and safeguard them in this leap of faith.

Be with them as they face challenges, fears and expectations.

Let them radiate the joy that is ours through you,  
create in them a desire to initiate relationships they never dreamed of,  
and urge them on as co-creators of your reign.

Give them peace for the journey,  
and passion for your people.

In the name of Jesus we pray,

**Amen.**

*[reprise of “Servant Song”]*

#### Blessing of New Avenues

*[Marcia will invite those who are starting new ministries (new appointments, new churches, changes) to all stand where they are. She will ask the whole congregation to extend their hands for a blessing of these persons.]*

Blessing for new ministries:  
*[prayed by Bishop]*

Come, Holy Spirit.

Living God, we ask a special blessing of courage and hope  
for these persons who are taking on new responsibilities,  
and those that will receive new leaders this year.

Undergird them with confidence in your call upon their lives.

Be with them as they forge new relationships, new partnerships in ministry.

Give them peace for the journey,  
and a passion for your people.

In the name of Jesus we pray,

**Amen.**





California-Nevada Annual Conference Worship  
 Saturday 3:30pm, June 19, 2010  
 Ritual of Commissioning and Ordination

*[this script does not include all the liturgy from the ordo for commissioning and ordination, only resources used otherwise]*

**"a new heaven and a new earth"**

**WE GATHER**

**Preparing our Hearts**

*Korean UMC of Santa Clara Valley*

**The Rhythm of Creation: The Procession**

*[Taiko drummer begins]*

Leader 1: In the beginning was God... (*rumble, slap*) and God begat the rhythm... (*begin rhythm*) and the rhythm begat everything else, and the dance began.

**People: As rhythm sounds, creation happens.**

Leader 2: We are a people bound together as co-creators of justice and hope.

**People: As rhythm sounds, communion happens.**

Leader 3: Our faith leads us to a world reverberating like a thousand different thunders.

**People: As rhythm sounds, we become one.**

Leader 4: We are part of a rhythmic creation as we build God's reign together.

**People: As rhythm sounds, opposition ceases.**

All Leaders: We are all companions of life's rhythms in our stillness...

*(rhythm stops)* and motion, in the sound and silence our souls are uplifted.

**All:** **As rhythm sounds, *(rhythm begins again)* we are standing on sacred ground!**

“Halleluya”  
“God of Grace and God of Glory”

### Greeting and Prayer

Bishop: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you!**

Bishop: We come together to praise God, to hear the Holy Word, and to seek for ourselves and others the power, presence, and direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray:

Bishop: Come, Holy Spirit,  
rattle the rooms in which we are hiding,  
shake the tired foundations  
until unjust institutions crumble,  
break the rules  
that keep You out of all our sacred spaces,  
then lift from the dust and rubble  
a completely new creation.

**All: Come, Holy Spirit,  
enter our lives,  
whisper our names  
and scatter Your gifts of grace with wild abandon.  
Give Your silent strength to all imprisoned  
and let Your raging fire be our sign of liberty.**

Bishop: Come, Holy Spirit!  
Help us find ourselves in vital places,  
bringing Your word and freedom  
to the poor, the oppressed, the outcast.

**All: In the name of Jesus, who touched, healed and challenged, and calls us to go and do likewise. Amen!**

### Recognition of Our Common Ministry Sung Response

*“I Have Called You By Your Name”*  
by Dan Damon [our pianist for this event!!! Thanks, Dan!]  
Songbook: *More Voices* (“MV”), 161  
Or Dan’s collections: [www.damonstuneshop.com](http://www.damonstuneshop.com)

**Ecumenical Greeting**

**RECOGNITION OF THOSE LICENSED AS LOCAL PASTORS**

**Sung Response**  
“Halle, Halle” FWS 2026  
*[as they are seated]*

**PRESENTATION OF PERSONS TO BE COMMISSIONED, ORDAINED OR  
RECOGNIZED**

**THE GENERAL EXAMINATION**

“Wa Wa Wa Emimimo (Come, Holy Spirit)” FWS 2124

**WE PROCLAIM**

THE LESSON FOR COMMISSIONING Acts 13:1-5  
*Spoken in Cantonese, English on screens (from commissionee’s congregation)*

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE BEING COMMISSIONED OR RECOGNIZED

THE EXAMINATION OF PERSONS BEING COMMISSIONED

THE PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS

**Sung Response**  
“Halle, Halle” TFWS 2026  
*[as they are seated]*

**The Word Proclaimed**  
“Santo, Santo, Santo” FWS 2007

*[The Christ candle and Bible are processed to the center aisle toward the front  
for the Gospel reading]*

**Gospel Readings**  
*Read in Korean & Mandarin*

*After the reading:*  
Deacon: The gospel of our Lord!  
**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

*[repeat the song refrain as the Bible, Christ candle process back to stage]*

**Sermon**  
“Who is My Neighbor?”  
*Bishop Warner Brown*

**Offering**

**Doxology**

**WE RESPOND**

**EXAMINATION OF DEACONS/ELDERS**

**LAYING ON OF HANDS AND PRAYER FOR DEACONS/ELDERS**

**Invocation of the Holy Spirit**  
“Veni Sancte Spiritus”  
*(Come, Holy Spirit)*  
*FWS # 2118*

***[ORDINATION OF DEACONS/EDLERS]***

**Sung Response**  
“Halle, Halle” TFWS 2026  
*[as they are seated]*

**WE GO FORTH**

**Footwashing of Newly Ordained Deacons and Elders**  
*John 13:3-8, 12-17*  
“Blest Are They” *URW 163*

**Blest are they, the lowly ones; they shall inherit the earth.  
Blest are they, who hunger and thirst; they shall have their fill.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kin-dom of God!**

*[underscoring continues under reading]*

“Jesus, knowing that God had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”

**Blest are they, who seek peace; they are the children of God.  
Blest are they, who suffer in faith; the glory of God is theirs.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kin-dom of God!**

*[underscoring continues under reading]*

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

**Blest are they, who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.  
Blest are they, the pure of heart; they shall see God!  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Blessed are you, holy are you.  
Rejoice and be glad!  
Yours is the kin-dom of God!**

*[repeat refrain as needed]*

### **Dismissal with Blessing**

*The bishop blesses the people [by Lois Evely, from “Imaging the Word”]:*

“Blessed are the poor in spirit”

This means that:

Fortunate are those who are willing...  
to let themselves be censured by the word of God  
to re-examine their views,  
to believe they haven’t yet understood a thing,  
to be taken by surprise,  
to have their mind changed,  
to see their convictions,

their principles,  
their tidy systems  
and everything they took for granted  
swept out from under them,  
and to face the fact, once for all,  
that there's no such thing as a matter of course  
and that God can ask anything!

The grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all always.

*A deacon dismisses the people, using these or similar words:*

Go in peace  
to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

**We are sent in Christ's name.  
Thanks be to God!**

**Recessional Hymn**  
"We Are Marching in the Light of God" [FWS]